

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 110900

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TO USINT DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 1074

E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

SUBJECT:GROMYKO VISIT

FOLLOWING STORY MOVED AS REUTER 727 AND 729 REPEATED TO
YOU FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

QTE

MOSCOW, MAY 27--SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO
WILL FLY TO DAMASCUS TODAY AT THE INVITATION OF SYRIAN
LEADERS, TASS NEWS AGENCY REPORTED. MR. GROMYKO-S VISIT
WAS ANNOUNCED HERE AS SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER
PREPARED FOR A CRUCIAL MEETING WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT
HAFEZ AL-ASSAD ON IRONING OUT FINAL PROBLEMS HOLDING UP AN
ISRAELI-SYRIAN TROOP DISENGAGEMENT PACT.

TASS GAVE NO DETAILS OF THE TRIP EXCEPT TO QUOTE AN
OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT SAYING THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS
PAYING A VISIT TO SYRIA "AT THE INVITATION OF THE
LEADERSHIP OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC."

THERE WAS NO INDICATION WHEN MR. GROMYKO WOULD ARRIVE
IN THE SYRIAN CAPITAL, OR EVEN WHETHER HE WAS ALREADY ON
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PAGE 02 STATE 110900

HIS WAY. HE WAS LAST IN DAMASCUS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE

MONTH. AFTER A 24-HOUR VISIT FOR TALKS WITH SYRIAN LEADERS

HE FLEW TO CYPRUS ON MAY 7 FOR TALKS WITH DR. KISSINGER.
THE SECRETARY OF STATE WAS MEETING PRESIDENT ASSAD THIS
MORNING TO RESUME THEIR NEGOTIATIONS AFTER A FIVE-AND-A-
HALF HOUR LATE NIGHT SESSION THAT ENDED JUST BEFORE
DAWN.

END OF STORY

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